(c) how far these measures would be benefiting the Scheduled Tribes of the State?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE) : (a) and (b) The National Mineral Policy 2008 enunciates that efforts would be made to grant mineral concessions to consortia of small scale miners so that such clusters of small deposits will enable them to reap the benefits of economies of scale. Mineral Concession applications are to be made to the State Government. The Ministry of Mines has on 12.10.2009 circulated a Model State Mineral Policy to all State Governments including Jharkhand which *inter-alia* addresses this issue and has requested the State Governments to consider adopting the policy.

(c) The State Government would need to make specific provision in the policy in this regard.

Illegal mining in Keonjhar, Orissa

376. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of large scale illegal mining of iron-ore and manganese in Orissaus mineral rich Keonjhar district which run into several thousand crores rupees;

(b) whether it is a fact that investigation carried out by Indian Bureau of Mines has found evidence to substantiate illegal mining in that area and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that illegally exploited mineral like iron-ore, manganese and chromites, which are of strategie importance are being clandestinely transported to China and Bangladesh by a racket; and

(d) if so, Governmentus reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE) : (a) to (d) Some instances of illegal mining of iron ore and manganese ore in Keonjhar district of Orissa have come to the notice of the Government. The Indian Bureau of Mines inquiries has found evidence of illegal mining of 1957 tonnes of iron ore and 56453 tonnes of manganese ore of a value of approximately Rs.23.39 crores.

The State Government of Orissa has informed that ;-

- A Vigilance investigation is underway
- Administrative enquiry is underway
- The State Government has arrested 8 persons (of which 6 are Government officials and 1 retired officer of the State Government) on 12.8.2009, who were subsequently released on bail.
- State Level Task Force has been reconstituted under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary.
- All the District Collectors have been directed to hold District Level Task Force meetings regularly, verify the lease hold areas and take appropriate action.

- The State Level Enforcement Squad constituted earlier has now been strengthened and enforcement activities intensified.
- The Department has introduced newly designed Transit Passes printed in Government Printing Press.

The State Government has also reported on 16.11.2009 that it has taken the following additional action in this matter:

- 128 mining leases for various minerals including iron ore, manganese, chromite, limestone, dolomite and quartzite, where application for renewal of lease had been pending have been verified and mining operations suspended.
- 482 licences granted by the State for trading and storage of minerals have been suspended /cancelled.
- State Level Enforcement squad is conducting intensive inspection of non grant areas to check for illegal mining.
- The Mines Department in the State has begun verification of the mining lease boundaries, for which remote sensing technology is also proposed to be used.
- Four Committees have been constituted at State leve! for setting up integrated check gates, Revenue Intelligence, Study rationalization of weigh-bridges, and Study to deploy IT application in mineral administration.
- Filling up vacant post in the Mines Department of the State Government to enhance enforcement.

The Government has not come across any instance of clandestine transportation of iron ore, chromites and manganese into China and Bangladesh. However, the export of these minerals is guided by the EXIM policy laid down by the Government.

Working of NALCO

377. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether gross profit and net profit of NALCO has been reduced;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years and the reasons therefore;

(c) whether the modernization work of NALCO has been delayed; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken against those who are responsible for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B. K. HANDIQUE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The gross and net profit of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) for the last three years is as under:-

Rs. in crores

Year	Gross profit	Net profit
2006-07	3631	2381
2007-08	2313	1632
2008-09	1804	1272